

EDITORIALS

There Are Different Kinds of Suns.

Twice lately has my attention been arrested by editorials appearing in the Gainesville Sun.

In one editorial this young man advises the Police Department of the city of Jacksonville to profit by the lesson of the Atlanta riot and at once close the many dives operated by negroes.

Said he, "We venture the assertion that there is not a city in the South where negroes are given such full sway as in Jacksonville. That city has long been looked upon as the negro's paradise in the South and it is evident that she has earned the distinction."

This is one of those statements that are just thrown out in the air because they sound good, with absolutely nothing to back them up.

I know the situation in Jacksonville from personal observation during a residence there commencing at my birth and ending but a few months ago.

I have come in contact with all classes of the citizens of Jacksonville. On account of the relation occupied by my father as landlord to several hundred negroes I have had a special opportunity to observe their conduct and to know their attitude toward the whites.

In the light of this experience I deny Mr. McCreary's statement. The negroes are NOT given more sway in Jacksonville than in any other Southern city. They are given just as much sway as they ought to have, and as their good behavior entitles them to, and no more.

In my personal experience I have been treated with the utmost respect by the negroes in Jacksonville and I have had but two occasions to complain of impertinence in manner or of speech during a residence there of some thirty years.

As long as negroes behave themselves they are treated well in Jacksonville.

As long as editors behave themselves they receive the same treatment, and Mr. McCreary has no right to say that the negroes have more sway in Jacksonville than in any other Southern city because he doesn't know what he is talking about, because he has not had sufficient opportunity to observe what kind of sway they have had there.

The second editorial in the Gainesville Sun which arrested my attention was one which called upon the State Auditor to investigate the State Departments.

There is nothing particularly noteworthy in this were it not for the imputation that Mr. McCreary makes that there is need for this investigation. In fact, he brings in this editorial specific charges against one of the Departments, that of the Tax Redemption Bureau.

I am not prepared to say, at this writing, whether or not there is any need for the Auditor's services in this or any other department. On general principles I agree with Mr. McCreary that an audit should be made of all the public departments of the State, county or municipality.

Mr. McCreary himself has been a State officer whose official duties have carried him to the State capital. Perhaps his conduct while there gives him the right to raise the doubt that other officials need looking after.

I say "perhaps" because I am not sure about it.

Bathing Versus Vaccination.

Thanks to the Chicago Record Herald I am able to present to the people of this State a corroboration of my argument that it will be better for the State Board of Health to adopt a rule that each child shall present satisfactory evidence of having had a bath each morning before being admitted to the schools, than the rule that each child shall show proof of having been vaccinated.

All that is claimed for vaccination is that it TENDS TO PREVENT the full virulence of smallpox after the disease is contracted.

None of its most enthusiastic advocates is willing to go on record as saying that it is an ABSOLUTE preventive of the disease. They cannot do this because statistics are against them. The reports on the course of the disease show that a considerable percentage of those who contract it have previously been vaccinated.

Cleanliness WILL PREVENT smallpox.

It depends on dirt for its existence.

The Chicago Record-Herald says:

"A Cleveland contemporary reports the complete success of an experiment made in that intelligent and progressive community in the way of installing baths in a few of the public schools. The schools selected are located in districts where the houses are not oversupplied with bathing facilities, but as child nature is the same in most, if not all districts, it is now proposed to place baths in all the school buildings. It is felt that the cultivation of personal cleanliness is as desirable as any of the so-called 'fads' and 'frills' that are gaining headway."

"The psychology of school bathing is thus explained by the Cleveland Plain Dealer:

"The youngster who dreads the maternal application of soap and towel at home finds it good sport to splash about in a shower bath at school. The griminess of so many children is not due so much to any innate love of dirt as to the lack of proper facilities at home, lack of attention, or dislike of the surrender of youthful independence implied in the forcible application of suds."

"Buffalo is agitating the question of school baths, and as the funds of its board of education are rather low a public subscription is urged by the newspapers."

The Times-Union Its Own Boomerang.

"If the drainage amendment is ratified at the polls next Tuesday the cause can be attributed to two things and neither of these two things outranks the other in importance or potency. The first one is the remarkable campaign in its behalf made by the Governor. The second is the equally remarkable campaign made against it by the Times-Union. Governor Broward's campaign has been noted for its dash, brilliancy and soundness. The Times-Union's campaign has been no less noted for its folly."

These words were spoken in this office by a citizen of Florida one day this week. He may be termed an average citizen from the viewpoint of intelligence, but he is above the average citizen from the one of information because of the opportunity to learn things presented to him by traveling extensively through the country and particularly through the State.

Another remark made to me by another citizen was, that the rank and file of the Democratic voters of this State have formed the habit of finding out what the Times-Union wants—

And ENTHUSIASTICALLY VOTING AGAINST IT.

Truly the utterances made by the Times-Union have been enough to disgust the advocate of the cause which it has opposed. The wonder is that those whose interests have made them opponents of the drainage proposition have not long since called the Times-Union off. Its daily dissertation on the drainage question has explored hitherto unknown depths of unfathomable nonsense.

A scrapbook made up of clippings from the Times-Union drainage editorials would take the first place in a contest to decide who should bear the crown reserved for the most foolish.

At this writing it looks as if the drainage amendment would be ratified by a comfortable majority. I don't look for an overwhelming vote in its favor,—I do not look for a large vote either for or against it.

The chances for its adoption were never better than they are now, and the drainage proposition has been ratified by the people each time they have had an opportunity to express themselves about it.

Hope has about departed from all those who are opposed to it and the spirits of those who favor it run high.

I believe that the people of Florida can be trusted to vote right on all questions presented to them, and there is no doubt about which is the right side of this question. In fact, an extended study and careful thought on this subject, covering a period of a year, have convinced me that this is an exception to the rule prevailing on all questions, because there is but one side to this question and that is the side that the people have shown themselves to be on, by electing Napoleon B. Broward Governor in 1904, and by sending to the Legislature men to represent them who passed the laws necessary to carry out Governor Broward's plan by an almost unanimous vote.

The people will ratify the amendment next Tuesday.

Professional Administrators.

One of the New York papers recently, in an editorial, called attention to the evil of professional receivers. It said that certain scandalous abuses of the appointment of Receivers were sufficient for the members of the bar to take up the subject of Receivers in the broadest possible way. The editorial describes the "Professional Receiver" as a man who makes a practice of hanging around the courts and making friends with litigants, and further describes him as ready to take hold of a Bank or a traction line or a pawnshop, not because he can make shift with any business, but because he can "receive" steadily and enthusiastically from any source.

I am against professional receivers for the same reason that I am against professional jurors. It is seldom that the person best qualified to administer the trust imposed upon him by a receivership, or to perform the important duties of a juror, seeks the employment. It is a rule that can be put down as a general one, that those who DO SEEK these employments are the very ones who should NOT RECEIVE THEM.

But what I particularly want to talk about is the professional administrator.

There are men in every large community in this State who make a practice of applying for the position of administrator of the estates of deceased persons. Pick up any newspaper published in a large city and you will be struck with the regularity with which one or two men are appointed administrators of intestate deceased persons.

Like a buzzard waiting for a cow to die, these persons seem to keep watch on the deathbeds of their neighbors, and as soon as the painful tidings go out they commence to prosecute their plans, already laid, to be appointed administrator on their estates.

Professional administrators are, almost without exception, lawyers with small practices who covet the few crumbs that can be gathered from administering on the estate of intestate persons to eke out the very restricted incomes which their legal talents bring to them.

While we are getting rid of the "professional receiver" and the "professional juror," let us make a clean sweep of it and get rid of the "professional administrator."